



Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of State
U.S. Information Agency, including
Broadcasting Board of Governors

MONTHLY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

audits, inspections, testimony, and special activities

August 1999

This report describes testimony provided by the Inspector General or other OIG officials and lists OIG reports issued during the period indicated. This report includes unclassified summaries of classified reports; all text in this report is unclassified. Classified reports are not distributed publicly. On occasion, OIG distributes an unclassified version of a classified report; in such a case, this listing also indicates the issued date of the original report. In addition, all major reports, together with OIG investigative activities are summarized in the Inspector General's semiannual reports to the Congress, which are publicly available every June and December.

Congressional and Outreach Activities

No activity to report for August.

Reports Issued by the Office of Audits

The Office of Audits issued no reports in August.

Reports Issued by the Office of Inspections

Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel, and USIS Israel (ISP/I-99-18)

Embassy Tel Aviv manages one of the most important U.S. bilateral relationships. The embassy contributes to policy development and has a strong role in policy implementation. Overall executive direction of policy and management of policy operations is good, but there have been serious problems in post administration. For the most part, interagency coordination is excellent. The Mission Performance Plan articulates a policy framework, but is not used for planning or for relating resources to policy.

Embassy Tel Aviv facilities do not meet security requirements. Planning for a secure, modern office building should take place now to consolidate operations. Preparations for consolidation of USIS and State Department elements in Tel Aviv are incomplete and require immediate attention. The embassy's internal systems are considered Y2K compliant, but the post has only just begun to plan for responding to disruptions in Israel that could affect American citizens.

Consulate General Jerusalem and USIS Jerusalem (ISP/I-99-19)

Security, infrastructure, and working conditions at Consulate General Jerusalem are dangerous. Facilities do not meet security requirements and working conditions are abysmal. Personnel at the leased property in East Jerusalem must be moved immediately.

Jerusalem is responsible for policy dialogue with the Palestinians, a delicate relationship at the center of the Middle East peace process. The Consul General's main responsibility is policy implementation, which he does well. Consulate General Jerusalem has several unique problems including unclear lines of authority and dependence on Embassy Tel Aviv for administrative support and for dealing with the Israeli Government. Such problems, policy constraints, and resource constraints have caused overall post management to suffer. The Mission Performance Plan articulates the policy framework for the post's work, but is not used for planning or for relating resources to policy.

Some Tel Aviv resources dealing with the Palestinians (including those in Gaza) should be shifted to Jerusalem to simplify and better coordinate activities. A long-vacant consular officer position should be filled immediately, and five new positions added. Internal systems appear to be year 2000 compliant. Planning to deal with disruptions in the external environment, including those that will affect protection of American citizens, has only just begun.

CFR of the Inspection of Embassy Moscow, Russia, and Constituent Posts and USIS Russia (ISP/C-99-20)

The follow-up review of the inspection of Embassy Moscow conducted in 1997 found that compliance with recommendations has been good—particularly in view of the continued growth of the post, the increased turbulence in bilateral relations and in Russian politics, and the security, policy, staffing, and funding constraints under which the post operates. The major problems identified by the 1997 inspection included managing ever-growing operations in outmoded facilities while trying to transition into new ones. Embassy Moscow and A/FBO have successfully addressed most of these problems since the 1997 inspection, although a final resolution depends upon obtaining funding for construction of additional unclassified facilities in a new embassy annex, as recommended in the CFR. The OIG also recommended that Consulate General St. Petersburg either be equipped with secure communications facilities to carry out assigned functions, or that expectations be revised and staffing be reduced to levels commensurate with the post's limited communications facilities. The follow-up review made or reissued eleven recommendations to address diplomatic privileges, staffing, housing and internal controls issues.

Inspection of Embassy Colombo, Sri Lanka, and USIS Sri Lanka (ISP/I-99-22)

As recommended in the 1995 inspection, U.S. operations have been downsized. Public diplomacy and economic assistance programs have been scaled back. In this leaner, more effective mission, policy execution and program oversight are strong. Reporting is excellent, particularly on the central - and related - issues of the insurgency and human rights. Commercial opportunities are limited by frequent trade disputes, but a number of these have been resolved by vigorous intervention by the embassy. Requirements under the Leahy Amendment to insure that candidates for U.S. military training have not been involved in human rights abuse are being met exceptionally well. Construction of a major new short-wave transmitter site for the International Broadcasting Board, capable of broadcasting to much of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, continues despite problems that have delayed construction. Information management is unsatisfactory and requires more active supervision by post management.

**Inspection of Embassy New Delhi, India, and Constituent Posts, and the USIS India
ISP/I-99-23)**

The Embassy is led by a strong Ambassador and DCM, but important positions have not been staffed by officers with the rank and experience. Abolition of the science counselor in 1996 has hampered the post's ability to pursue important U.S. scientific and technical interests. The position should be re-established. Despite current tensions in bilateral relations, Indian authorities provide good protection to the embassy and to three consulates-general. A sharp increase in consular workloads, some of it from a sudden increase in immigration to the United States of Indian computer programmers, will require some additional staffing and significant increases in productivity.

Reports Issued by the Office of Security and Intelligence Oversight

During this reporting period, OIG security oversight inspections were completed at the following embassies: Oslo, Norway, and Stockholm, Sweden.